

2002 Hall Of Fame Inductee

Parmley Harris

J. Parmley Harris of Mineral Point, has been involved with the FFA for more than 75 years. Raised on the Grand View Guernsey dairy farm, Parmley was a charter member of the Mineral Point High School FFA. He was the first Wisconsin recipient of the American Farmer Degree in 1931 and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture in 1935.

Parmley moved with his wife, Jean, to Spring Green, where he started the high school vocational agriculture program. He later expanded the high school agriculture program at Clinton and assisted in the development of area agribusinesses.

In 1941, Parmley returned to farming in the Mineral Point, specializing in purebred foundation livestock and land conservation practices. Besides developing outstanding herds of registered Guernsey and Angus cattle, Berkshire swine, Shropshire sheep, and Morgan horses, he helped many 4-H and FFA youth get started agriculture.

From 1946 to 1961, Harris served as an on-farm instructor for the Veterans Administration, enabling young WWII and Korean conflict veterans to become established in production agriculture. Beginning in 1968 Parmley again became formally involved as a teacher of Wisconsin youth. He taught a Mineral Point junior high science class for one year and served as the high school vocational agriculture instructor and FFA advisor for one year at Barneveld, one year at Shullsburg and three years at Argyle. Until 2001, Parmley had been a regular substitute teacher in agriculture and other subjects at area high schools.

Parmley received the Wisconsin Honorary State Farmer degree in 1981, the Wisconsin FFA Distinguished Service Award in 1998, and the Honorary American FFA Degree in 1998. Parmley has received numerous other livestock association awards. Parmley continues his interest in the future of Wisconsin's youth and agriculture as an active farmer and charter member of the Mineral Point FFA Alumni Association. His character, compassion and good humor have endeared him to generation of young rural citizens.